

Message Text

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SUBJ: HUNGARIAN IMPORTS OF U.S. SOYBEAN MEAL,
OCT 1975 - FEB 1975

REF: A. STATE 09000

B. STATE 233354

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE; VIENNA FOR AGRICULTURE ATTACHE'

1. AGRIMPEX, SOLE HUNGARIAN IMPORTER OF SOYBEAN MEAL, STATES THAT AS OF DECEMBER 22, 1974, IT HAD 168,000 TONS OF OUTSTANDING ORDERS FOR U.S. SOYBEAN MEAL WHICH HAD BEEN BOOKED BUT NOT SHIPPED. SHIPMENTS OF U.S. SOYBEAN MEAL TO HUNGARY IN PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1, 1974, TO DECEMBER 22, 1974, TOTALED 16,200 TONS.

2. IN DISCUSSING GENERAL TOPIC OF SIZE OF U.S. SOYBEAN SHIPMENTS TO HUNGARY, AGRIMPEX NOTED LARGE DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN U.S. EXPORT STATISTICS AND HUNGARIAN IMPORT STATISTICS. IN 1973, FOR EXAMPLE, OFFICIAL U.S. FIGURES SAID SOYBEAN MEAL AND OIL CAKE EXPORTS TO HUNGARY AT LEVEL OF ABOUT \$16 MILLION, WHILE HUNGARIAN OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN FOREIGN TRADE YEARBOOK NOTED THAT IMPORTS

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OF SOYBEAN MEAL AND OIL CAKE ABOUT \$50 MILLION (451.4

MILLION DEVISA FORINTS). WHILE PRELIMINARY U.S. STATISTICS FOR 1974 INDICATE THAT OVERALL SOYBEAN EXPORTS WILL BE IN \$25-30 MILLION RANGE, AGRIMPEX STATES THAT LAST YEAR IT PURCHASED 275,000 TONS OF MEAL WORTH ABOUT \$60 MILLION DIRECTLY FROM THE UNITED STATES. AGRIMPEX OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR SOYBEAN IMPORTS SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND REASON FOR THIS SIZABLE DISCREPANCY SINCE ALL SOYBEAN PRODUCTS ORDERED BY HIS FIRM WERE BOUGHT DIRECTLY FROM AMERICAN COMPANIES OR THROUGH NEW YORK OFFICE OF GERMAN FIRM, A.C. POFFER. HE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS REASON U.S. EXPORT FIGURES FOR HUNGARY WERE SO LOW WAS THAT SOYBEAN PRODUCTS SHIPPED TO GERMAN OR YUGOSLAV PORTS WERE IN SOME CASES BEING COUNTED AS EXPORTS TO THOSE COUNTRIES RATHER THAN TO HUNGARY.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON AGENCY LOOKING INTO REASONS FOR THIS DISCREPANCY PARTICULARLY SINCE SOYBEAN PRODUCTS BY FAR OUR MOST IMPORTANT EXPORT TO HUNGARY. OUR FEELING IS THAT HUNGARIAN STATISTICS MAY MORE CLOSELY REFLECT ACTUAL LEVEL OF U.S. EXPORTS HERE THAN OUR OWN DO. IF SO, DIRECT U.S. EXPORTS TO HUNGARY IN 1973 WOULD BE APPROX \$85 MILLION RATHER THAN \$32.8 MILLION STATED IN USDOC FIGURES. IF AGRIMPEX'S 1974 ESTIMATES ARE CORRECT, U.S. EXPORTS TO HUNGARY DURING 1974 WILL BE IN VICINITY OF \$100 MILLION. MUDD

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